



6 killed in New Jersey gunbattle, including police officer

By DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — Six people, including a police officer and three bystanders, were killed in a furious gunbattle Tuesday that filled the streets of Jersey City with the sound of heavy fire for hours, authorities said.

The dead included the two gunmen, Jersey City Police Chief Michael Kelly said.

The slain officer, Detective Joseph Seals, 40, was credited by his superiors with having led the department in the number of illegal guns removed from the streets in recent years, and might have been trying to stop an incident involving such weapons when he was cut down by gunfire that erupted near a cemetery, authorities said.

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Law enforcement gathers near the scene following a shooting, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, in Jersey City, N.J. Law enforcement gathers near the scene following a shooting, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, in Jersey City, N.J.

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6 killed in New Jersey gunbattle, including police officer

Continued from Front

The shooting then continued at a kosher supermarket about a mile away, where five more bodies were found, Kelly said. "It's a really tough day for the city of Jersey City," Mayor Steven Fulop said. Seals "was one of the best officers for getting the most guns off the streets. He was a good cop." Two other officers were wounded but were later released from the hospital, authorities said. The bullets started flying early in the afternoon in the city of about 270,000 people, situated across the Hudson River from New York City. Seals, who worked for a unit called Cease Fire, was shot around 12:30 p.m. The gunmen then traveled to another part of the city in a stolen rental van and engaged police in a protracted shootout. "Our officers were under fire for hours," the chief said. Inside the grocery store, police found the bodies of what they were believed were the two gunmen and three other people who

apparently happened to be in the place when the assailants rushed in, authorities said. Police said they were confident that all those killed were shot by the gunmen and not by police. The kosher grocery is a central fixture in a growing community of Orthodox Jews who have been moving to Jersey City in recent years. Authorities were unable to say why the gunmen went there. City Public Safety Director James Shea said that authorities believe the bloodshed was not an act of terrorism but that it was still under investigation. The shooting spread fear through the neighborhood, and the nearby Sacred Heart School was put on lockdown as a precaution. SWAT teams, state police and federal agents converged on the scene, and police blocked off the area, which in addition to the school and supermarket included a hair salon and other shops. Dozens of bystanders pressed against the police barrier to capture the action on their cell-



Bystanders look out from a store as law enforcement arrives at the scene following reports of gunfire, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, in Jersey City, N.J.

Associated Press

phones, some whooping when bursts of fire could be heard. Video shot by residents recorded loud volleys of gunfire reverberating along one of the city's main streets and showed a long line of law enforcement officers pointing guns as they advanced, yelling to bystanders, "Clear the street! Get out of the way!" Seals had been on the Jer-

sey City Police Department since 2006. In addition to his work with the illegal guns unit, he was cited for heroism in a Christmas Eve 2008 incident in which he and another officer burst through the window of a home and stopped a sexual assault that was being carried out against a 41-year-old woman. Seventh grader Zamir Butler said his class was coming

back inside from the playground at Sacred Heart, which sits across the street from the grocery store, when he heard the shots. At first he thought they were thunder, since it had rained earlier. "Everybody was running up the stairs to get to safety in the classroom," he said. "A few of the kids were crying. They told us to stay behind the wall and stay down." □

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Immigrant advocates sue U.S. over yanked detention hotline

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Immigrant advocates sued the Trump administration Tuesday for ending a free hotline that allowed detained immigrants to report concerns about custody conditions after it was featured on the show “Orange Is the New Black.”

The nonprofit group Freedom for Immigrants, which has run the hotline since 2013 with a free phone line provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, sued in federal court in Los Angeles.

The lawsuit alleged that the administration yanked the hotline in August after it was featured on the Netflix show, which drew attention to the group’s criticism of detention conditions for immigrants.

“They cannot shut down this hotline in retaliation for the fact they don’t like what Freedom for Immigrants is saying,” said Moez Kaba, a partner at Hueston Hennigan, which is repre-

senting the group. “And they can’t shut down the hotline because they want to prevent Freedom for Immigrants from saying it.” Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to comment on the lawsuit but said the hotline was removed last year from a list of pro bono legal service providers that immigrants can call for free.

At the time, the agency notified the group that it had been misusing the hotline, said Bryan Cox, an ICE spokesman.

The line was not monitored or recorded so immigrants could find and speak with lawyers, but the group was using it for three-way calling to connect detainees to family, Cox said.

The agency had provided the hotline after a request from the nonprofit and a group of volunteers in Florida who had visited detained immigrants.

Immigrants in detention centers were then allowed

to call for free, enabling the group — which also runs visitation programs at

facilities across the country — to monitor custody conditions and help reconnect

detainees with loved ones separated at the border, the lawsuit said. □



In this Sept. 26, 2019 file photo, detainees sit in a yard during a media tour inside the Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield, La.
Associated Press

A promotional poster for Wind Creek Casinos in Aruba. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. At the top, a clock face is shown with a large blue arrow curving around it, and the text "Tick Tock Around the Clock" in red. Below this, the text "Receive up to \$500 in Promo Chips" is prominently displayed. Underneath, it says "Play at least 10 hours each week and receive promo chips." Further down, it states "Come in and play a minimum of 10 hours from Monday to Sunday each week in December with a minimum average bet of \$10 and begin earning your way to a weekly award." The Wind Creek logo is in the center. At the bottom, there are images of playing cards (aces of spades and hearts) and casino chips. A small disclaimer at the very bottom reads: "*Play will be checked on Monday by Promo team to verify if guests has reached their hours. Promo Chips will be awarded on Mondays during the month of December beginning at 2PM. Max time to redeem is one time per week. Award does not transfer or accumulate from week to week."



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U.S. charges: Mexico ex-security chief took bribes from cartel

By TOM HAYS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexico's former top security chief has been indicted in New York City on charges he accepted a fortune in drug-money bribes from kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman's notorious Sinaloa cartel to let it operate with impunity in Mexico.

Genaro Garcia Luna, 51, was charged in federal court in Brooklyn with three counts of cocaine trafficking conspiracy and a false statements charge.

Garcia Luna, a resident of Florida, was arrested Monday by federal agents in



In this June 2, 2011 file photo, Mexico's Genaro Garcia Luna speaks during a ceremony to designate June 2 as the Federal Police Day in Mexico City. The former Federal Secretary of Public Safety was arrested in Dallas Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, on charges of cocaine trafficking and making false statements.

Associated Press

Dallas, where he made an initial court appearance Tuesday afternoon.

He waived his right to a hearing to establish his identity and will remain in

custody while awaiting a bail hearing Dec. 17.

Afterward, defense attorney Rose Romero declined to comment outside court. Prosecutors in Brooklyn have said they will seek Garcia Luna's removal to New York, where El Chapo faced trial in 2018.

Jurors heard former cartel member Jesus Zambada testify that he personally made at least \$6 million in hidden payments to Garcia Luna, on behalf of his older brother, cartel boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada. The cash was delivered during two meetings at a restaurant in Mexico be-

tween the start of 2005 and the end of 2007, he said.

Prosecutors said other co-operating witnesses have confirmed that the cartel paid Garcia Luna tens of millions of dollars to clear the way for the Sinaloa cartel to safely ship multi-ton quantities of cocaine and other drugs into the United States. The cartel "obtained, among other things, safe passage for its drug shipments, sensitive law enforcement information about investigations into the cartel and information about rival drug cartels," according to court papers. □

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Monumental statue of black man defies Confederate monuments

By SARAH RANKIN
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A massive bronze sculpture of a young black man in a hoodie astride a horse was permanently installed Tuesday in Virginia's capital city, not far from one of the country's most prominent displays of Confederate monuments.

At least 1,000 people crowded the lawn of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts as "Rumors of War" was unveiled in its new home. The piece, the first public sculpture by prominent artist Kehinde Wiley and Wiley's largest work to date, was previously on display in Times Square.

"Rumors of War" is Wiley's response to the Confederate monuments that pepper the United States and the South in particular.

"This is a story about America 2.0," he said Tuesday. Wiley is well known for his regal portraits of black Americans, including one of former President Barack Obama that's displayed at the National Portrait Gallery. He said he was inspired to create "Rumors of War" after seeing a massive equestrian monument honoring Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart during a visit to Richmond in 2016.

The Stuart monument is one of five giant Confederate statues that dot Monument Avenue, a prestigious resi-

dential street and National Historic Landmark district.

Both the Stuart statue and "Rumors of War" feature regal, muscular horses in virtually the same pose, with one front leg lifted. Both riders are turned to the side, though instead of Civil War-era garb, Wiley's is dressed in streetwear: a hoodie, ripped jeans and sneakers, with dreadlocks gathered atop his head.

Mounted on a large stone pedestal, Wiley's sculpture is just blocks away from Monument Avenue. It is prominently displayed along the city's historic Arthur Ashe Boulevard, a thoroughfare renamed in honor of the black tennis great earlier this year. It sits next to the headquarters of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

Tuesday's installation came amid an ongoing debate in Richmond about what to do with its Confederate monuments and how its history as the capital of the Confederacy and an epicenter of the international slave trade should be told. A commission formed by Mayor Levar Stoney in 2017 issued nonbinding recommendations that called for removing a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, leaving the rest and adding historical context. That commission's work has been rolled into a second one. Some Virginia

cities have been hamstrung in their attempts to remove or relocate Confederate monuments because of a state law that protects memorials to war veterans. That issue could get another look in January when the state legislature convenes, controlled by Democrats for the first time in a generation. □



The statue titled *Rumors of War* by artist Kehinde Wiley gets fully unveiled after the tarp covering the statue got stuck for a while at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Va., Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

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Testing tech ideas in public? San Francisco says get permit

By JANIE HAR

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Tired of San Francisco streets being used as a testing ground for the latest delivery technology and transportation apps, city leaders are now requiring businesses to get permits before trying out new high-tech ideas in public.

Supporters of the legislation, which the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Tuesday, say it is the first of its kind in the U.S. They say it's long overdue in a city that's a hub for major tech companies but is more accustomed to reacting to the sudden arrival of new technology — like hundreds of dockless electric scooters that appeared overnight last year.

The e-scooter trend has led to complaints from people in cities across the country. The tech industry has showered San Francisco with high-paying jobs and cemented its reputation as a place for big ideas, but the success of home-grown companies Airbnb, Lyft and Uber has vexed some residents as streets have become more congested and the housing shortage has worsened.

"I support innovation and technology, but our residents are not guinea pigs, and our public infrastruc-



In this April 17, 2018 file photo, a woman rides a motorized scooter in Washington Square Park in San Francisco.

Associated Press

ture is not a free-for-all," said Norman Yee, president of the Board of Supervisors who introduced the legislation.

The Office of Emerging Technology will serve as a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs who want to test their products in San Francisco's public space. Companies will not be allowed to experiment unless the office declares the tech in question a "net public good."

It's not clear how criteria will be used to evaluate proposals, but companies that share data, ensure public safety and privacy when

testing, and promote job creation would fare better than those that don't.

The office will have oversight over new technology launched on, above or below city property or on public right-of-ways, but the legislation does not spell out all the possible technologies the office would oversee.

Yee said hoverboards, delivery drones and data-gathering devices on sidewalks or other public infrastructure would be subject to regulation. He's even heard of a business that wants to promote low-tech

pogo sticks as transportation. The concept makes him shudder.

"Can you imagine?" Yee said. "Let's put a stop to that before they drop 10,000 pogo sticks into the city."

Local officials have a duty to protect public infrastructure and to send the message that public space is "not the Wild West" for anyone with coding skills and a neat idea, said Aaron Klein, a fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, a public policy think tank.

"On the other hand, too much local control and

too many hoops to jump through can be easily manipulated by vested interests to fight advancement," he said.

San Francisco political strategist Jon Golinger says it's time that City Hall took control after nearly a decade of political leaders allowing businesses free rein. The lenience made some people wealthy but didn't provide enough public good to a city with skyrocketing housing prices, growing homelessness and widening income inequality.

"It had a detrimental and lasting effect on the quality of life and the health of our city," he said.

For instance, San Francisco did not start regulating Airbnb until 2014, years after the company started advertising short-term rentals despite a city law that prohibited such stays.

Officials also are tangling with Uber and Lyft over congestion, user data and driver pay, among other issues.

Transportation companies like those ride-hailing services are overseen by the state so could not be regulated by the city office, says Erica Maybaum, an aide to Yee. It also would not regulate a service like Airbnb because that involves a private platform and private properties, she said. □



In this Jan. 24, 2019 file photo Dr. Brandon Crum points to the X-ray of a black lung patient at his office in Pikeville, Ky.

Associated Press

By DYLAN LOVAN

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A cut to the tax coal companies pay to fund a trust for sick miners will cost taxpayers at least \$15 billion by 2050,

according to a new report from a national watchdog group.

An excise tax rate on mined coal that funds the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund expired at the beginning

Report: black lung funding cut will cost taxpayers billions

of 2019 due to inaction by Congress. That led to a reduction in the amount coal companies pay into the fund, which pays benefits and medical bills for miners diagnosed with black lung disease.

"By failing to extend the excise tax, Congress is shifting billions of dollars in liabilities from coal companies to taxpayers," said Autumn Hanna, vice president of Taxpayers for Common Sense. The Washington-based group released a report on Tuesday that said the fund's debt could be as high as \$26 billion by 2050. The U.S. Department of

Labor earlier this year confirmed to The Associated Press that a funding shortfall in the Black Lung Trust Fund would be covered by borrowing from the U.S. Treasury.

A excise tax rate of \$1.10 per ton of underground mined coal was cut by more than half to about 50 cents in the new year. The fund took in about \$450 million in revenue in fiscal year 2017.

The cut came as a surge of black lung disease scars miners' lungs at younger ages than ever. Dr. Brandon Crum, who has watched the epidemic

unfold at his Pikeville, Kentucky, radiology clinic, said earlier this year that he has seen 200 miners diagnosed with a severe form of black lung disease in less than four years.

The nation had 31 such diagnoses in the 1990s, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

The mining industry supported the higher tax rate's expiration.

Black lung disease, or pneumoconiosis, is caused by inhaling dust in the lungs and has no cure. It has killed about 78,000 miners since 1968. □

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Loophole limited scrutiny before deadly NYC helicopter crash

By **MICHAEL R. SISK**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The helicopter company whose doors-off flight crashed in a New York City river last year, trapping all five passengers in their harnesses, exploited a regulatory loophole to avoid stricter safety requirements, federal investigators said Tuesday.

FlyNYON operated under the government's least stringent standards "to the detriment of their customer's safety" because it described the purpose of its flights as photography, not sightseeing, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Robert Sumwalt said.

The company instructed employees to avoid using terms like "air tour" or "sightseeing" so it wouldn't lose its certification under a photography exception that allowed it to fly under the same regulations as private pilots and hobbyists, investigators said.

"This is a loophole that one could fly a helicopter or drive a truck through," NTSB Vice Chairman Bruce Landsberg said at a Washington hearing on the crash.

NTSB member Jennifer Homendy called it "an egregious interpretation of current regulations."

The Federal Aviation Administration told the board that the exemption is meant for things like newsgathering, commercial photography and film shoots — not sightseeing tours, which are subject to stringent commercial aviation standards, including FAA-approved training and maintenance programs.

Nonetheless, FlyNYON has promoted "sneaker selfies," complete with video on its website of a passenger's feet dangling over lower Manhattan, and it boasts of having flown more than 250,000 passengers.

The helicopter crashed into the chilly East River in March 2018 after a tether meant to keep a passenger from falling out got caught on a floor-mounted fuel shutoff switch, stopping the engine minutes into the scheduled 30-minute flight. It started to sink within seconds.

In written submissions, FlyNYON faulted the design of the Eurocopter AS350's fuel controls and its emergency flotation system, which failed to keep the aircraft upright. Flotation system manufacturer DART Aerospace said in a submission that pilot Richard Vance likely failed to fully pull the inflation lever, leaving the devices only partially inflated.

The NTSB acknowledged those issues but put most blame for the passengers' drowning deaths on FlyNYON and the hard-to-escape harnesses that it installed on top of federally mandated restraints.

Vance, the pilot, was wearing just a seat belt and was able to free himself, investigators said.

The passengers could have survived if not for the supplemental restraints, the board said, recommending that the FAA ban such devices until the agency can get a handle on regulating them.

Sen. Charles Schumer said the NTSB's findings made clear that FlyNYON should stop doors-off flights.



In this March 12, 2018 file photo, a helicopter is hoisted by crane from the East River onto a barge in New York. Federal investigators said Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, the helicopter company, whose doors-off flight crashed in a New York City river last year, exploited a regulatory loophole to avoid stricter safety requirements.

Associated Press

"FlyNYON has done just about everything they can to skirt safety, accountability and best practices within their industry," said Schumer, a New York Democrat. "The helicopter company has proven time and again to be reckless, brazen and a hazard high above, and even down below."

In addition to a standard lap belt and upper body restraint, FlyNYON provided passengers with a nylon fall-protection harness — akin to something bought at Home Depot — that could be released only by cutting a tether with a provided knife or unscrewing a carabiner at their backs, investigators said.

The board also slammed the safety culture at FlyNYON, which arranged the flight, and Liberty Helicopters, the company that Fly-

NYON contracted with for helicopters and pilots. FlyNYON's CEO stressed profits over safety and remarked that pilots who complained "can't get their snowflake feelings hurt," according to Homendy.

In a statement, FlyNYON said safety has always been its "first priority and we have made changes to our operations to help ensure an accident like this never happens again."

FlyNYON said it now operates its own helicopters with its own pilots. Liberty declined to comment, saying the crash remains subject to active litigation.

Gary Robb, a lawyer for passenger Trevor Cadi-gan's family, said in an email that the companies "recklessly represented that passengers would be able to escape from these har-

nesses in the event of an emergency when, in fact, they knew full well that that was false and this was a death trap!"

Video from a GoPro camera in the cabin of the helicopter shows passengers struggling to free themselves from the tight harnesses as the aircraft fills with water, investigators said.

"How do I cut this?" one passenger asks.

The FAA grounded doors-off flights after the crash, but they've since resumed with requirements that restraints be released with just a single action in an emergency.

FlyNYON says it now uses an FAA-approved, quick-release harness system on all doors-off flights, allowing "fast and simple exit in case of an emergency." □

Johnson dodges UK's health woes, wants to talk about Brexit

By **DANICA KIRKA**

MIKE CORDER

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — With two days until polling day, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought Tuesday to get his election campaign back onto Brexit after coming under fire for his lack of empathy for looking away from an image of a child sleeping on a hospital floor while seeking treatment.

The story of 4-year-old Jack Williment-Barr has overshadowed campaigning for Thursday's general election as Johnson and his Conservatives hunt for crucial last-minute votes. The opposition Labour Party has painted Jack's plight — a sick child forced to lie for hours on a floor because no hospital bed was free — as a symptom of Britain's ailing health system, which has suffered under years of Conservative government austerity measures.

As Labour kept up its relentless focus on problems with the National Health Service, Johnson's Conservative Party tried to focus voters' minds on the prospect of an uncertain result and divided Parliament, which would endanger Johnson's plan to lead Britain out of the European Union on Jan 31. All 650 seats in the House of Commons seats are up for grabs in this election, which is being



A vehicle brandishing an election campaign poster for the Liberal Democrats party, drives in Trafalgar Square in London, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

held more than two years early in a bid to break Britain's political impasse over Brexit. Opinion polls give the Conservatives a lead over Labour, but all parties are nervous about the verdict of a volatile electorate that is weary after years of wrangling over Brexit.

Johnson's clumsy reaction to Jack's plight was a late misstep in a largely gaffe-free campaign. A video of the prime minister briefly declining to look at a cell-phone photo of Jack on a journalist's phone — and then placing the phone in his pocket — has been viewed more than a mil-

lion times. In the clip of the interview, ITV reporter Joe Pike said to Johnson: "You refuse to look at the photo. You've taken my phone and put it in your pocket, prime minister."

Johnson then removed the phone from his pocket and looked at the screen.

"It's a terrible, terrible photo. And I apologize obviously to the families and all those who have terrible experiences in the NHS," he said. The incident quickly became caught up in a storm of social media claim, counterclaim and conspiracy.

Several prominent journal-

ists, including the political editors of the BBC and ITV, tweeted a claim by anonymous Conservative officials that a party worker had been punched by a protester while Britain's health secretary visited the hospital. When footage emerged showing that no assault had taken place, they apologized — but a media storm was already raging. Some social media users circulated claims that the photo of Jack, first published by the Yorkshire Evening Post, was staged. Editor James Mitchinson tweeted his reply to one such reader, explaining the

way the newspaper had verified the story.

"I would be happy to meet you over a coffee to offer you an explanation as to how sophisticated and corrosive the proliferation of fake news is, and what to do to guard against being conned by it," he wrote.

The controversy about the photo comes amid a campaign marred by misleading social media images and attack ads.

Britain's electoral laws, like those of most countries, were largely written before the dawn of the internet, meaning social media campaigns are mostly unregulated and open to exploitation. With no constraints, such as the strict rules that govern broadcasters, Britain's political parties have pushed the boundaries of truth, transparency and reality.

The Labour Party found itself embarrassed, meanwhile, by the leak of a phone recording to the right-wing political website Guido Fawkes in which the party's health spokesman suggested that the party would lose Thursday's vote because voters "can't stand Corbyn."

Jonathan Ashworth said his unguarded remarks were merely banter with a Conservative friend and claimed he had been trying to "psych him out like football managers do." □

Greece sends letters to UN over Turkey-Libya deal

By **ELENA BECATOROS**

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece has sent two letters to the United Nations explaining its objections to a maritime boundary deal between Turkey and Libya and asking for the matter to be taken up by the U.N. Security Council, the government spokesman said Tuesday.

The country's foreign minister also convened a meeting in Athens to brief political party leaders on developments. The deal, endorsed by Turkey's parliament last week, has fueled regional tension, par-



Greek foreign Minister Nikos Dendias arrive for a meeting to brief political party representatives on developments for the maritime boundary deal between Turkey and Libya in Athens, on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

ticularly over drilling rights for gas and oil exploration. The agreement would

give Turkey and Libya access to an economic zone across the Mediterranean

despite the objections of Greece, Egypt and Cyprus, which lie between the two geographically. All three countries have blasted the deal as being contrary to international law, and Greece expelled the Libyan ambassador last week over the issue.

Government spokesman Stelios Petsas said Greece sent one letter to the U.N. secretary general and one to the head of the U.N. Security Council on Monday night detailing Greece's position.

The letters state the agreement "blatantly violates the rules of the Interna-

tional Law of the Sea on maritime delimitation because, first and foremost, Turkey and Libya have neither overlapping maritime zones, nor common boundaries and, consequently, there is no legal basis to lawfully conclude a maritime delimitation agreement."

The boundaries set out in the deal "are fictitious, unlawful, arbitrary and provocative, and openly infringe on Greece's sovereign rights in that maritime area, thus seriously endangering regional peace and stability," the letters said. □

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Your online Aruba restaurant guide

Parisians dodge strikes by logging on to share rides, bikes

By CLAIRE PARKER

Associated Press

ARGENTEUIL, France (AP)

— Adrien Lachevre and Nailat Msoili live a few kilometers (miles) apart in Paris' northwest suburbs, but their paths had never crossed until Lachevre picked Msoili up in his gray Fiat on Tuesday morning.

An app had matched their schedules and morning commutes, and the two had arranged to meet at a nearly deserted gas station well before dawn, hoping to beat the traffic that has clogged highways in recent days.

As a general strike across France stretched into its sixth day, they were among many commuters who have turned to technology — and strangers — to get by. Use of carpool apps, big and small, has spiked. So has demand for shared bikes and electric scooters that you activate with your phone and pick up and



Parisians ride bicycles Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019 in Paris.

drop off where you want. Commuters are finding places to sleep near their workplaces via Facebook or online couch-surfing communities.

All this is changing the nature of French strikes, undercutting unions' power to paralyze the country. Only about a fifth of French trains ran normally on Tues-

day, and many Paris subway lines remained closed as transit workers and other unions protested President Emmanuel Macron's proposed overhaul of the

country's pension system. Teachers, health care workers and bus drivers were among those taking to the streets.

Carpooling startups are among the big winners. Msoili, a receptionist in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, usually takes a train and a bus to work each morning. For the first two days of the walkout, she stayed at a friend's house close to her job.

When the strike outlasted the weekend, she took a colleague's recommendation and signed up for BlaBlaLines, a city ride-sharing service set up by popular French long-distance carpooling company BlaBlaCar. BlaBlaLines drivers, unlike those with Uber, aren't trying to make a living from giving rides to others; they're ordinary car owners who were already planning to drive somewhere and agree to take others along. □

Associated Press

Tens of thousands of Czechs call on prime minister to resign

Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Tens of thousands of Czechs returned to the streets of Prague on Tuesday to urge Prime Minister Andrej Babis to resign.

The protest at the central Wenceslas Square and a march followed two huge rallies earlier this year when a quarter of a million people demanded that Babis step down in the biggest such demonstrations since the 1989 anti-Communist Velvet Revolution.

The latest protest was fueled by the move of the country's chief prosecutor who overturned last week a previous decision

to drop charges Babis was facing over alleged fraud involving European Union subsidies.

In a separate case, a leaked EU report in recent days concluded that Babis might have had a conflict of interest over EU subsidies involving his former business empire.

The European Commission has not published the result of its audit because the procedure hasn't been completed.

"Resign, resign," the crowd chanted. Babis, a populist billionaire, has denied wrongdoing and repeatedly said he wasn't planning to leave office. □



Several thousands demonstrators gather to demand the resignation of Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis, at the Wenceslas square in Prague, Czech Republic, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Gulf leaders meet in Saudi Arabia under looming Iran threat

By AYA BATRAWY

Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia

(AP) — Arab Gulf leaders gathered in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday for an annual summit that was intended to showcase their unity in the face of shared threats. But looming over the meeting were their frayed ties and heightened worries about Iran.

For all their diverging views and interests, members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council share a common goal of stability in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow shipping corridor that's vital to their energy exports from the Persian Gulf. The GCC bloc is composed of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Attacks blamed on Iran this summer, including a stunning missile and drone attack on a major Saudi crude processing facility, have rattled the region. Tensions in the Gulf between Tehran and Washington have also escalated sharply in recent months. "The Gulf region must unite



A Qatari flag flies in front of a banner showing Saudi King Salman with Arabic reads, "We pledge you to listen and obey" at a trade center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019 ahead of the Gulf Cooperation Council "GCC", 40th summit.

Associated Press

in the face of Iran's aggression and the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council must secure themselves in the face of ballistic missile attacks," Saudi Arabia's King Salman said

in his opening remarks. The king's comments follow signs of a diplomatic thaw among those Gulf states that cut ties with Qatar and blockaded the tiny nation two years ago.

Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt accuse Qatar of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group they view as a threat to regional security. They also accuse Qatar of having close ties with Iran. Qatar, which shares a massive underwater gas field with Iran, says its commitments have always been "to uphold international law and protect human rights and not to a specific party or group."

Qatar was represented at the Gulf summit by the country's prime minister rather than the ruling emir. There had been some speculation among analysts that Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani might attend the summit amid talk of reconciliation. Others said he would never be seen visiting any of the four countries so long as their blockade on Qatar persists.

King Salman, who greeted Gulf leaders as they arrived for the summit, was shown sharing a traditional coffee with Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser Al Thani minutes before the meeting began.

Sigurd Neubauer, a Middle East analyst based in Washington, said recent attacks on oil targets in the Persian Gulf have accelerated the need for Gulf reconciliation.

"The external threat to the GCC is significant now from Iran as opposed to just a year ago," he said.

Omani analyst Abdullah Baabood added that the economies of Gulf countries and their oil exports are at risk if the Gulf is not secure.

Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani acknowledged last week that there have been talks with Saudi Arabia. □

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Bosnian police clear migrants from camp near old minefield

Associated Press

BIHAC, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian police rounded up migrants at a tent camp Tuesday and ordered them to board buses that would take them to what was described as a better facility near the capital of Sarajevo.

The Vucjak camp where the migrants were living has almost no facilities. Local authorities set it up last summer on a former landfill close to a minefield left over from Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

The camp near the city of Bihac was deemed unsuitable for human habitation and Bosnia has been roundly criticized for housing migrants there.

While migrants protested the conditions in the Vucjak camp, including staging a 3-day hunger strike last week, they opposed being moved away from Bosnia's border with Croatia. □

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Duterte to end martial law in Philippine south after 2 years

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Rodrigo Duterte has decided to end more than two years of martial law in the southern Philippines after government forces weakened Islamic militant groups there with the capture and killing of their leaders, his spokesman said Tuesday.

Duterte placed the Mindanao region under martial law after hundreds of local militants aligned with the Islamic State group and backed by foreign fighters occupied buildings, a commercial district and communities in Marawi city starting May 23, 2017, in the worst security crisis Duterte has faced.

Troops quelled the disastrous siege after five months



In this July 22, 2019, file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks during his 4th State of the Nation Address at the 18th Congress at the House of Representatives in Quezon city, Philippines. Associated Press

of intense airstrikes and ground offensives with the help of American and Aus-

tralian surveillance aircraft. The Philippine Congress approved an extension of

martial law in Mindanao three times after Duterte warned that militants con-

tinued to recruit fighters and plot attacks. Duterte decided not to further extend martial law, which expires at the end of the year, after his defense and security advisers provided an assessment that "the terrorist and extremist rebellion" has been weakened with the losses of the militants' leaders and a drop in crime in the region, presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said.

"The (presidential) palace is confident on the capability of our security forces in maintaining the peace and security of Mindanao without extending martial law," Panelo said in a statement. "The people of Mindanao are assured that any incipient major threat in the region would be nipped in the bud." □

Hong Kong police defuse bombs designed 'to kill and to maim'

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong police said they defused two large homemade bombs packed with nails and designed "to kill and to maim people" in the latest reported seizure of weaponry during six months of anti-government protests that have shaken the city.

Police said the bombs found Monday evening inside a high school on Hong Kong Island were "complete, fully functional and

ready to be used."

The origin of the bombs was not clear. The Wah Yan College said the bombs were found in a public area of the school and that there is no evidence linking them to any of its staff or students. Police said the bombs were radio-controlled, to be triggered with mobile phones. They contained 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of high explosives and shrapnel that would inflict injury.

Their blast could have been felt over a distance of 100 meters (yards) or more, police said. Alick McWhirter, the police explosive squad's senior disposal officer, said that had the bombs exploded, they could "have killed and injured large numbers of people."

In July, police announced the seizure of about 2 kilograms (4.4 pounds) of TATP, which has been used in militant attacks worldwide. □



A police officer from the bomb disposal squad putting on protective gear during a demonstration for media in Hong Kong, Friday, Dec. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

Alberto Fernández inaugurated as president of Argentina

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Alberto Fernández assumed the presidency of Argentina on Tuesday, returning the country to the ranks of left-leaning nations at a moment of right-wing resurgence in the Western Hemisphere.

Taking the vice presidency was Cristina Fernández, 66, a polarizing figure who served as president from 2007 to 2015 and whose presence has raised questions about the extent of her influence in the new administration.

Alberto Fernández, a 60-year-old lawyer from the country's center-left Peronist movement, faces the grave and immediate challenge of trying to pull Argentina from economic crisis: The country has a 35% poverty rate and is struggling to make debt payments on time.

The economy is expected to shrink 3% by the end of 2019, with inflation at 55%.



Argentina's President Alberto Fernandez, left, and Vice President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner smile after taking the oath of office at the Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

"I come before you to call for unity from all Argentina, to build a new social contract of brotherhood and solidarity," Fernández said in his inaugural address

before Congress. "I come before you calling for all to put Argentina on its feet, to put the country on a path toward development and social justice."

He said that his administration's first meeting would focus on reducing hunger, and said that Argentina wanted to pay all its creditors but lacked the capac-

ity to do so. Outgoing leader Mauricio Macri became the first non-Peronist president to complete his term in 74 years, a landmark seen as a sign of Argentina's maturing democracy. The new president said on Twitter that he would dedicate himself to "putting my dear Argentina back on its feet." Alberto Fernández served as head of Cristina Fernández's Cabinet for the beginning of her time in power and many wonder if the new vice president will wield outsized power in the new government. She and Alberto Fernández have denied that.

However, close allies of Cristina Fernández have already been named to key government positions and her son is head of the governing party in the lower house of the legislature. Peronists cheered as the pair were inaugurated, saying they had high hopes for an improved quality of life. □

Chile combs Antarctic for missing plane with 38 aboard

By PATRICIA LUNA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Searchers using planes, ships and satellites were combing Antarctic seas on Tuesday, hunting for a Chilean Air Force transport plane carrying 38 people that vanished en route to a base on the frozen continent.

Seven hours after contact was cut off, the Air Force declared the plane a loss, though there was no sign of what happened to it. The Air Force said two ships, more than a dozen planes and three satellites were being used in the search.

Officials said the plane had taken off in favorable conditions on Monday, though it was flying in an area notorious for rapidly changing conditions, with freezing temperatures and strong winds.

The C-130 Hercules carried 17 crew members and 21 passengers, including



In this image made from video, Gen. Eduardo Mosqueira, right, of the Fourth Air Brigade speaks to the media next to a map of the area where the airplane is missing, in Punta Arenas, Chile, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019.

Associated Press

three civilians. They were en route to check on a floating fuel supply line and other equipment at the Chilean base.

President Sebastián Piñera

said via Twitter that he was with his defense and interior ministers at the air force headquarters monitoring developments.

"My thoughts and prayers

are with the families of the 38 crew members and passengers," Piñera said, adding that he had cancelled a planned trip to attend Tuesday's inaugu-

ration in Argentina of President Alberto Fernández. The three civilian passengers included a 24-year-old who was embarking on a research project and two employees of a private company. One passenger was a woman. The two pilots had extensive experience, according to the Chilean Air Force, which said that while the plane was built in 1978, it was in good condition. The Air Force said it flies this route monthly. The plane took off at Monday afternoon from the southern city of Punta Arenas, more than 3,000 kilometers (1,860 miles) from the capital of Santiago. Contact was lost at 6:13 p.m., the initial announcement said.

Drake's Passage, the sea between the southern tip of South America and Antarctica, is infamous for severe weather conditions, including ferocious storms. □

LOCAL



Loyal guests at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort: “It is sophisticated here and the people are so accommodating”



EAGLE BEACH —Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort Aruba is the home away from home for 13 years already to Pauline and Vernon Conway OF Scarborough, England. “We feel part of the Divi family. In some places you are just a guest, here you are so much more. The staff is just the greatest and the management very approachable. It is all about 100 % commitment and dedication here.” The couple love Aruba for so many reasons but the safety and genuine character of its people make the difference. They have been coming to the island every year since 2006.

“Anna, Maureen, Dominique They are all wonderful people working here at Divi and creating a personal connection to us. It makes us feel homely and appreciated,” says Pauline. The Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort is where they fell in love with and stay every year. Vernon: “It’s on the beach, the whole set-up is just marvelous and it does not have that rush like in the high-rise. When you get to our age you want to relax and unwind. We do not want to queue to reserve a palapa. Here there is no worries about that.” The lovely British couple like the fact that the site is spread out and offers variety. “It is called Village for a reason because that is how it feels. Casino, supermarket, restaurant, golf, the beach ... everything is here. And they have got this mini shuttles with great guys that drive you from A to B.” According to Vernon the X-factor starts with the staff and management. “At the management cocktail the entire management team is present which does not happen everywhere, believe me. It shows their dedication and engagement. They know where their bread is buttered and do not hide in their offices.” First impressions are lasting, no matter what business you are in or wherever you go, they say.

Take it up a notch

Pauline and Vernon started visiting Aruba in 2006. “We purchased time share in the UK and Aruba kept on popping up on the site. We thought what is this Aruba? Where is that? We have been around the Caribbean a lot to the Bahamas, St Maarten, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica.... But here they take it up a notch. Vernon: “We like to walk around and discover the place. You can’t do that in many places, we have been to numerous places in the Caribbean and they warn you not to walk outside of the resort premises. Also Aruba is sophisticated, it has class. I’ve got to the age that I like sophisticated, this place is a lot of notches up the ladder.” Pauline adds to that the accommodating experiences they got. “Once we needed a dentist for my husband urgently and they made it happen within one day. That is just fantastic, try that in England.”



The couple used to come twice a year but air fares have doubled in prices which made them decide to come once a year for a longer stay. “We fly with KLM which is fantastic. We feel that the fact that Aruba is part of the Dutch Kingdom does count for the better safety and higher level when compared to other Caribbean destinations.” The safety, friendliness of the people, wonderful beaches, warm climate and the high level of service make that they consider Aruba as our home away from home. “We feel the warmth and that comes not only from the sun.” ☐

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Nature and Environmental Education pilot project launched with the theme Waste

ORANJESTAD – The Minister of Education, Science and Sustainable Development (OWDO), Dr. Armando R. Lampe, in his vision as Minister of Education, is introducing the supplementary Nature and Environmental Education (in Dutch: Natuur- en Milieu Educatie or

NME) into the Aruban primary school curriculum in 2020/2021. The overriding goal of NME is to bring children closer to nature through a more pragmatic and practical approach.

The Aruban curriculum already teaches the subject

Kennis der Natuur (Knowledge of Nature) as part of the World Orientation program. NME will supplement this with a more hands-on approach that easily translates into our daily lives. NME encourages pupils to carefully consider nature, hygiene, their living envi-



ronment, Aruban flora and fauna, and especially encourages sustainable and responsible thinking and behavior at a young age with regard to a healthy lifestyle and caring for nature and the environment. Drs. Samuel Dumfries of the Directorate of Education Aruba (DEA) has been appointed as project leader to develop and run the pilot together with the specialists of the Aruba National Park Foundation (Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba or FPNA) during the 2019/2020 school year. Four different primary schools will participate in this pilot project.

Becoming aware of the fact that nature and our environment are inextricably linked to who we are as human beings is a first step in solution-based thinking. Our knowledge of and interaction with nature is (partly) dependent on what we are taught from home, but also during our school career. We live in a complex world with a multitude of perspectives from which to choose. In addition to increasing complexity and versatility in information flows and choices, the effects of our choices have also become more complex and extensive.

NME encourages pupils to think and act in critical,

creative and solution-focused ways, thereby providing more breadth and depth to the national curriculum. NME is available from kindergarten. Hence, nature and environmental awareness is stimulated and imparted at a young age and throughout primary school.

The NME pilot project covers three themes: Waste, Healthy Lifestyle and Flora & Fauna. The first theme, Waste (with the lesson title Aruba Dushi Sin Sushi or 'Aruba Lovely without Waste'), was introduced to the participating teachers last Friday during a workshop at the Arikok National Park. Waste is a broad concept, but what all types of waste have in common is that it is ultimately thrown away. Part of this is true waste; materials or items that can no longer be (re) used. Often there are also items that could be repaired, reused or recycled in some other way, such as paper, glass and tin cans. We humans produce a lot of waste. It is better for the environment (and also for animals and humans) if we become more aware of the forms of waste and how we can reduce waste at home, in our surroundings and at school.

Continued on Page 15

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Nature and Environmental Education pilot project launched with the theme Waste



Continued from Page 14

Litter is found almost everywhere in Aruba. It is dumped along roadsides, on our school grounds, in our shopping centers, in our mondi, on our beaches and along our coasts. Everywhere you see chewing gum, bottles, straws, cigarette butts, cans, and more junk. We all think it is dirty and ugly. It is often dangerous too - for both people and animals and na-

ture. The only way to do something about this problem is to change our own thinking and behavior. It is in our own hands to foster a clean and safe living environment. The overriding goal of the assignments in these themed practical lessons is to bring about desired behavioral change and encourage sustainable behavior of the pupils. Ultimately, we want to encourage a cleaner, safer and healthier living environment for everyone on Aruba. □

Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 11

Live flamenco music and fab food

- Tonight at hip Bohemian restaurant: Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max.
- From 7pm
- Bohemian restaurant, in front of Barcelo Resort at Palm Beach
- Facebook: Bohemian



Sunday 15

The Nutcracker ballet

- The holiday classic ballet once again comes to life on stage at Cas di Cultura. Watch the Christmas tree grow as snowflakes tip toe on pointe and Clara goes on a magical adventure through the Land of the Sweets.
- 3pm
- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook Cas di Cultura



Thursday 12

12 days of Christmas

- "12 Days of Christmas" December 11 – 22 is back by popular demand. Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas by visiting Eagle Casino each of the 12 days to earn a chance to win holiday prizes.
- 8 – 11pm
- Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino
- Facebook: Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino



Monday 16

Holiday Lunch Buffet

- Celebrate the Holidays with a Festive Lunch Buffet. Aquarius will be serving a Holiday Lunch Buffet including market style salad bar, main dishes including 'Ayacas', a carving station with traditional holiday ham and roasted turkey, action station and holiday dessert station.
- Noon to 3:30pm
- Aquarius restaurant at Renaissance Resort
- Facebook: Aquarius and Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino

Friday 13

It's 5 o'clock somewhere

- Have you heard about the newest bar in town? The other-state-of-mind 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill opened last weekend. Get yourself some great energy because this will definitely make you happy.
- Open from noon
- Renaissance Marketplace, Oranjestad
- Facebook: 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar and Grill



Saturday 14

Benefit gourmet dinner with live guitarist

- Come and enjoy the great guitarist Luis Quintero live at the chic Azure Beach Residences and savor the culinary art of iron chef Irvin Croes
- 7pm
- Azure Beach residences, Eagle Beach
- Facebook: Azure Residences Aruba



Tuesday 17

Italy for a night at Casa Nonna

- Take a genuine trip to the most emblematic corners of Italy enjoying a 4-course menu inspired by Sicily at Casa Nonna New York.
- From 5 to 10pm
- The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- Facebook The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

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Bohemian Restaurant: Eclectic surprise with French core



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. Tonight Bohemian offers a special night with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez.

From 7 PM tonight Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and offbeat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Thursdays Bohemian adds some magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

ONLY French owned Restaurant

The French are famous for their culinary art. Bohemian is the ONLY French owned restaurant on Aruba and offers you Grande gastronomy in a hip decor. French classics like Coq-au-Vin, Beef tartare, Escargot, Duck Foie Gras Terrine, Bouillabaisse Fish Soup, Tuna-Tartare, Quinoa-Salad, Rib-Eye Butter Maître-D, Crème Brulee, Chocolate Lava Cake and Pineapple Carpaccio are on the menu. Mediterranean inspired dishes like Ras el Hanout Fish Kebbab, Honey and Rosemary Lamb Shank, Moroccan Lamb sausages, Mediterranean Sea Bass and Grilled Local Catch are other finger licking options. Directly imported wines from wineries in Europe make up for a perfect pairing. You are welcome to enjoy the Happy Hours and Daily Early Birds from 5 to 7 PM. Bon appetite! Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barcelo Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □

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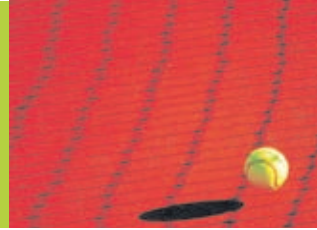
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SPORTS



PATRICK REED STILL THE TALK OF THE PRESIDENTS CUP

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— As if being the first playing captain in 25 years at the Presidents Cup weren't enough, Tiger Woods filled yet another role Tuesday at Royal Melbourne.

Woods had Patrick Reed in his group for the first full practice round for a U.S. team still trying to shake off the jet lag from a 23-hour flight from the Bahamas.

"It's always great playing with Tiger because he kind of frees you up," Reed said. "Everyone's focused on what Tiger's doing." Woods got plenty of love from the fans, many fearing they might never get a chance to see him Down Under after his career was in jeopardy from four back surgeries. Woods won the Australian Masters at nearby Kingston Heath in 2009 and made the clinching putt in 2011 the last time the Presidents Cup was at Royal Melbourne. He was the biggest topic on the first day of interviews because of his rules violation last week at the Hero World Challenge when he twice scooped away sand behind his ball while playing from a waste area. Reed was penalized two shots after seeing the video. He says it wasn't intentional and he wasn't helped; he didn't feel or see his club scrape back the sand; and the camera angle didn't show his club far enough behind the ball.

Fans didn't wait until the start of the matches Thursday to needle him.

Continued on Page 23



Duclair has 3-point game, Senators beat Bruins 5-2

Ottawa Senators' Nikita Zaitsev holds off Boston Bruins' Brad Marchand during third period NHL hockey action in Ottawa, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019.

Associated Press
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Hayward scores 14 in return, Celtics beat Cavaliers 110-88

By The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Kemba Walker led Boston's balanced scoring with 22 points, Gordon Hayward had 14 points in his return from a broken hand and the Celtics remained unbeaten at home with a 110-88 victory over the sinking Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

Jaylen Brown had 20 points and seven rebounds, Jayson Tatum added 19 points with 11 boards, and Daniel Theis scored 10 for Boston, which improved to 10-0 at TD Garden.

Jordan Clarkson led Cleveland with 19 points, and Tristan Thompson had 17 points with 11 rebounds. The Cavaliers have lost seven straight games and 13 of 14.

Hayward returned exactly a month after breaking his left hand when he collided with San Antonio's LaMarcus Aldridge as the Spurs' big man was setting a screen.

Hayward played 26 minutes, finishing with five rebounds and four assists.

He was expected to miss about six weeks.

But he said this weekend the bone is healed and — thanks to a plate with screws — might even be stronger than it was before.

KINGS 119, ROCKETS 118

HOUSTON (AP) — Nemanja Bjelica made a 3-pointer at the buzzer to lift Sacramento over Houston.

The game was tied when Russell Westbrook drove into the lane for a layup that put Houston on top with a second to go.

After a timeout, Cory Jo-

seph inbounded the ball to Bjelica and his 3-pointer swished through the net to give the Kings the win and send the entire bench onto the court to celebrate.

Buddy Hield had 26 points to lead the Kings, who had six players score in double figures as they won their second straight after losing the previous three.

Westbrook had a season-high 34 points and James Harden added 27 points and 10 assists for Houston.

BUCKS 100, MAGIC 101

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 15 rebounds to lead Milwaukee to its 15th straight victory.

Khris Middleton scored 20 points for Milwaukee and Dante DiVincenzo added 12 points off the bench.

Evan Fournier had 26 points for the Magic, who had won four straight.

Terrence Ross scored 23.

The Bucks had their first two shots of the game swatted away by Magic forward Jonathan Isaac, the league's leading shot blocker.

In all, Isaac recorded four blocks against four different players before the game was 8½ minutes old.

RAPTORS 93, BULLS 92

CHICAGO (AP) — Pascal Siakam scored 22 points, and Toronto held on to beat Chicago when Zach LaVine missed a runner in the closing seconds.

The defending NBA champions ended their first three-game skid since last November and beat Chicago for the 11th straight time. Norman Powell added 17 points for Toronto, including

six in the fourth quarter.

LaVine scored 20 points for Chicago — all in the first

half. Lis with the Clippers and Montrezl Harrell added 26 to power short-handed Los

PISTONS 105, PELICANS 103

NEW ORLEANS (AP)

Derrick Rose hit a 14-foot



Boston Celtics forward Gordon Hayward (20) sets to drive to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers forward Cedi Osman (16) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019. Hayward returned to play after breaking his left hand in early November.

Associated Press

half.

Wendell Carter Jr. had 14 points for the Bulls, who made just 12 of 46 3-pointers on the way to their sixth loss in eight games.

Raptors guard Fred VanVleet missed the game because of a bruised right knee.

Kyle Lowry scored 11 points in his third game after missing 11 in a row with a broken left thumb.

The five-time All-Star made 1 of 8 3-pointers, and the Raptors hit 7 of 29 from beyond the arc.

CLIPPERS 110, PACERS 99

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paul George scored 36 points in his first trip to Indianapo-

litanes. Los Angeles Clippers past Indiana.

Booed repeatedly early in the game, George finished with a season-high seven 3-pointers as the Clippers won for the fourth time in five games.

Malcolm Brogdon led Indiana with 20 points despite playing with a splint on his sore shooting hand. Domantas Sabonis added 18 points and a career-high 22 rebounds as the Pacers lost their third home game of the season.

With Kawhi Leonard sitting out, George had the green light to take charge against his former team and he didn't disappoint.

jumped into the lane with 0.3 seconds left and scored 17 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter to lift Detroit over New Orleans.

With the game tied, Detroit worked an isolation play for Rose, who dribbled the ball out top against Jrue Holiday.

Rose drove into the lane, spun to the right and hit the jumper over Holiday's outstretched arms.

New Orleans inbounded the ball from halfcourt toward Jaxson Hayes, but the rookie center could not get the tying tip-in.

Brandon Ingram finished with a game-high 31 points, and Holiday had 20. □



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Eagles rally past Manning, Giants 23-17 in OT

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer
PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

Carson Wentz relied on a bunch of guys off the practice squad and his go-to guy Zach Ertz to rally the Philadelphia Eagles. After Eli Manning led the New York Giants to a 14-point lead, Wentz brought the injury-depleted Eagles back and tossed a 2-yard touchdown pass to Ertz in overtime to give Philadelphia a 23-17 win on Monday night. The Eagles (6-7) snapped a three-game losing streak and moved into a tie with Dallas (6-7) for first place in the NFC East. Philadelphia takes the division title if it wins its final three games. The Eagles meet the Cowboys in Week 16.

"Guys stepped up and made plays," Wentz said. "We had guys moving around and I had no choice but to trust these guys." The Eagles were down to one healthy wide receiver by the end of the game and were using inexperienced guys and players out of position. Ertz, a Pro Bowl tight end, had to line up at wide receiver.

"We understood as a team that we had to find a way," Ertz said.

Manning, the two-time Super Bowl MVP, threw a pair of TD passes to Darius Slayton in his first game since Week 2. Filling in for injured rookie Daniel Jones, Manning was 15 of 30 for 203 yards. But he couldn't prevent New



Philadelphia Eagles' Jay Ajayi (28) is tackled by New York Giants' Dalvin Tomlinson (94), Janoris Jenkins (20), Corey Ballentine (25) and Michael Thomas (31) during the first half of an NFL football game against the New York Giants, Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

York (2-11) from losing its ninth straight game, tying a franchise record set in 1976, when the team opened 0-9.

"I've played a lot of football games," Manning said. "I know the offense and know what I'm supposed to do. I made some good throws and didn't make some plays that I needed to."

Wentz threw for 325 yards and a pair of TDs, including a 5-yard toss to Ertz to tie it at 17 with 1:53 left. Already missing three starters on offense, the Eagles lost wide receiver Alshon Jeffery and right tackle Lane Johnson in the first half and were booed off the field trailing 17-3 at halftime.

They went three-and-out on five straight possessions before Boston Scott caught a 10-yard pass on third-and-5 in the third quarter. Scott then ran 4 yards to the 2 on third-and-3 and scored on the next play to cut it to 17-10. Scott, one of the former practice squad players, provided a big spark. He had 59 yards rushing and 69 yards receiving.

"Just do my job. You never know when your opportunity might come," Scott said.

Wentz drove Philadelphia to the Giants 29 with just under 10 minutes left but Greg Ward dropped what should've been a 29-yard TD pass on third-and-11.

Jake Elliott then missed a 47-yard field goal wide left. But the defense held and Wentz drove the Eagles 85 yards and connected with Ertz to tie it. The Eagles won the toss in overtime and went 75 yards.

Ertz had nine catches for 91 yards.

Manning connected with Slayton for a 35-yard TD on a third-and-13 to give the Giants a 7-0 lead on the first play of the second quarter. Ronald Darby missed a tackle that would've stopped Slayton short of a first down. Manning hit Slayton for a 55-yard TD on third-and-8 with 27 seconds left in the first half to give the Giants a 17-3 lead.

"I thought he battled. He did a lot of good things," Giants coach Pat Shurmur said of Manning.

Down 7-0, the Eagles got going when Wentz connected with Ertz on consecutive passes of 24 and 30 yards. Wentz then hit Ward for a 9-yard TD that was negated by a holding call on Brandon Brooks. The Eagles settled for Elliott's 34-yard field goal.

Aldrick Rosas hit a 34-yarder to make it 10-3.

ELI'S FUTURE

Manning, who turns 39 next month, is a free agent after the season. It's uncertain when Jones will return, so it's possible Manning could make at least one more start at home.

COMEBACK KIDS

The Eagles had lost 19 straight games when trailing by 14 or more points in the second half before rallying against the Giants. They previously overcame a 20-6 deficit in a 30-27 win over Indianapolis in Week 2 of the 2014 season.

INJURIES

Giants: TE Evan Engram (foot) and CB Corey Ballentine (concussion) were among the key players inactive. Eagles: Jeffery (foot) and Johnson (ankle) didn't return after exiting in the second quarter. ... Regular starters DE Derek Barnett (ankle), WR Nelson Agholor (knee), RB Jordan Howard (shoulder) and LB Kamu Grugier-Hill (concussion) were inactive. □



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Patriots go from very bad luck to very bad look

ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

One day, things aren't looking good at all for the New England Patriots. The next, the defending champs are grappling with a very bad look.

A day after officiating blunders and another poor passing performance by Tom Brady were the biggest takeaways from New England's first home loss in two years, the Patriots acknowledged that a video crew working for the team filmed the Cincinnati sideline during the Bengals' game at Cleveland.

Cincinnati plays New England this weekend.

Yes, another camera-spying flap from the team that brought the term "Spygate" into the NFL lexicon in 2007 when the Patriots were caught videotaping opposing team signals in a scandal that cost them a first-round draft pick and \$250,000 and made Bill Belichick's bank account \$500,000 lighter.

Crucial calls made in the final minute of the Dolphins-Jets game and the 49ers-Saints showdown in a wild Week 14 were overshadowed by the Patriots' mushrooming problems.

In a statement posted on Twitter and the team website, the Patriots said a three-person crew for a web series titled "Do Your Job" "inappropriately filmed the field from the press box" as part of a feature on the scouting department. The filming took place "without specific knowledge of league rules," the statement said.

The Patriots said the Browns, the home team, granted the crew credentials but in an "unintended oversight," the team failed to inform the Bengals or the NFL and when confronted, the crew



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick watches from the sideline in the second half of an NFL football game against the Dallas Cowboys, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

"immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully," the team said.

Spygate, as The AP's Jimmy Golen wrote, helped fuel a widespread distrust of the team that reverberated a decade later when the Patriots were accused of illegally deflating footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game. Brady was suspended four games, and the team was fined \$1 million and docked another first-round draft pick.

A few years after Spygate, Josh McDaniels, who was head coach in Denver between stints as Brady's offensive play caller, was fired in the aftermath of a video scandal in which Steve Scarnecchia, the son of longtime Patriots offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia and who followed McDaniels to Denver, illegally filmed the 49ers' practice ahead of a 2010 game against the Broncos in London.

Asked about the latest vexing videotape reports during his radio show on Monday, Belichick told WEEI the

video crew was completely separate from the football staff: "We have absolutely nothing to do with anything that they produce or direct or shoot. I have never seen any of their tapes or anything else. This is something that we 100% have zero involvement with."

It hardly seems necessary for the Patriots (10-3) to need special intel on the signals of the Bengals (1-12). Then again, the Patriots' past rap sheet means football fans outside New England don't give them the benefit of the doubt.

On Sunday, the Patriots didn't get the calls that seemingly always went their way at Gillette Stadium.

There were three big questionable rulings by referee Jerome Boger's crew in New England's 23-16 loss to Kansas City:

1. Travis Kelce's fumble in the waning seconds of the third quarter. Hit by Devin McCourty, the Chiefs tight end fumbles the football and Stephon Gilmore recovers with plenty of room to run toward the end zone.

The play is blown dead, however, and Kelce ruled down by contact. Belichick uses his final challenge and the call is overturned. New England gets the ball at its 43.

2. The Patriots quickly drive to the Kansas City 15 and N'Keal Harry is ruled out of bounds at the 3 after an apparent touchdown catch from Brady with 13:22 remaining in the game. TV replays show Harry stayed inbounds on what should have been ruled a score. Belichick is out of challenges after losing one in which he asked for a better spot and offensive pass interference on a play earlier in the game but lost on both counts.

Three plays later, New England settled for a field goal to get to 23-16.

Boger told a pool reporter after the game that the covering official on the Harry play was blocked out by defenders.

"The downfield official who was on the goal line and looking back toward the field of play had that he stepped out at the 3-yard

line," Boger said. "So, they got together and conferred on that. The final ruling was that he was out of bounds at the 3-yard line." Because all scoring plays are reviewed, a ruling of touchdown would have ultimately gotten the call right, but Boger said he wasn't inclined to overrule his crew mates to get to the fail-safe automatic review. "Those two officials who are covering it, they look at it in real time," Boger said. "This case was unique in that the guy who would have ruled touchdown had him short. So maybe if the ruling official on the goal line had a touchdown, we could have gotten into that, but he thought that that guy stepped out of bounds. The goal line wasn't in the play."

3. Officials missed a defensive pass interference by cornerback Kendall Fuller on a deep pass to Phillip Dorsett with 3½ minutes remaining that would have spotted the ball at the Kansas City 6. The non-call brought up fourth-and-6 at the Kansas City 29 and Brady scrambled for 17 yards for a first down.

But on fourth-and-3 from the Kansas City 5-yard line, Bashaud Breeland expertly defended Brady's pass to Julian Edelman in the end zone and knocked it away. Game over.

Brady's 169 yards passing were his second-fewest this season, and the Patriots' 21-game home winning streak, tied for longest in franchise history, was also finished.

Boger only addressed Harry's TD-that-wasn't after the game, not Kelce's fumble, the uncalled pass interference or Donte Hightower's late shove that sent Patrick Mahomes tumbling into the team's coolers that drew no flag. □

Varlamov shuts down Lightning in Islanders' 5-1 win

By The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Semyon Varlamov stopped 31 shots, Brock Nelson scored twice in the third period, and the New York Islanders beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 5-1 on Monday night.

Ross Johnston, Josh Bailey and Anders Lee also scored for the Islanders, who are 18-0-1 when scoring three or more goals.

Tampa Bay got a goal from Steven Stamkos. Curtis McElhinney stopped 19 shots.

Varlamov made an in-close rebound save on Stamkos and a diving glove grab on Pat Maroon early in the third.

In addition to Nelson's goals at 7:31 and 14:41, Lee added a power-play goal with 3:55 remaining.

BLUE JACKETS 5, CAPITALS 2 WASHINGTON (AP) — Cam Atkinson scored twice, including a late empty-netter, and Joonas Korpisalo stopped 37 shots to help Columbus beat Washington.

Ryan Murray, Riley Nash and Oliver Bjorkstrand also scored for the Blue Jackets, who snapped their four-



New York Islanders goaltender Semyon Varlamov (40) makes a save on a shot by the Tampa Bay Lightning during the second period of an NHL hockey game Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.
Associated Press

game skid. Columbus won for just the third time in nine games.

Goaltender Braden Holtby made 19 first-period saves but allowed four goals on 37 shots. Alex Ovechkin scored his 21st of the season early in the third period, and Nicklas Backstrom added a 6-on-5 goal in the waning minutes.

Washington snapped a six-game winning streak with their first regulation loss since Nov. 20. The Capitals had their seven-game point streak end two days before facing the Boston Bruins in a showdown of the league's top two teams.

B Anthony Duclair had two goals and an assist and Ottawa beat Boston.

Chris Tierney, Artem Anisimov and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored for the Senators, who were playing their first home game following a five-game trip (1-4-0). Anders Nilsson made 38 saves in Ottawa's first win over the Bruins (20-5-6) since April 6, 2017. Patrice Bergeron and Jake DeBrusk scored for the Bruins, who

were playing the first of four road games. Tuukka Rask made 23 saves in his first loss in regulation since Nov. 8.

FLAMES 5, AVALANCHE 4, OT

DENVER (AP) — Sean Monahan scored 2:09 into overtime to lift Calgary past Colorado.

Matthew Tkachuk had a goal and an assist, Derek Ryan also scored and David Rittich made 28 saves for the Flames, who have won five in a row under interim coach Geoff Ward and finally broke through against Colorado this season. Andrew Mangiapane and Michael Frolik scored 1:27 apart to start the third period for Calgary.

The Flames have struggled against the Avalanche of late, starting with the first round of the 2019 playoffs when eighth-seeded Colorado won in five games. The Avs won the first two meetings this season as well.

Nathan MacKinnon, Valeri Nichushkin, Ryan Graves and Joonas Donskoi scored for the Avalanche. Pavel Francouz finished with 28 saves. □

Dallas Stars fire Jim Montgomery for unprofessional conduct

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars fired second-year coach Jim Montgomery on Tuesday for what the team called unprofessional conduct.

General manager Jim Nill said Montgomery had acted inconsistently with "core values and beliefs of the Dallas Stars and the National Hockey League." He did not elaborate.

Nill said he became aware Sunday of an act by Montgomery and that the decision to relieve the coach of his duties came after an internal investigation that included discussions with the team's general counsel. While again not going into detail, Nill said it was not a criminal act, and had no connection to present or past players. Nill, who hired Montgom-



The Dallas Stars interim coach Rick Bowness speaks during a news conference after the team fired second-year coach Jim Montgomery on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, for what the team called unprofessional conduct.

Associated Press

ery, called the incident a "total surprise."

Rick Bowness, who came on an assistant coach with Montgomery, was named interim head coach for the remainder of the season, starting with Tuesday night's home game against the New Jersey

Devils.

In all, four NHL coaches have lost their jobs already this season — three of them amid allegations of misbehavior.

The move by the Stars came only a day after NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, at a meeting of

the Board of Governors, said the league will work swiftly to make changes to better deal with personal conduct issues raised by players and former players in recent weeks, including allegations of racism and physical abuse by coaches.

Montgomery's firing is not related to that kind of misbehavior, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team has not elaborated on the reason for Montgomery's dismissal.

Montgomery was 60-43-10 as the Stars coach after being hired in the summer of 2018 from the University of Denver for his first head coaching job in the NHL. Dallas made the playoffs last season before losing in double-overtime in Game

7 of its second-round series on the road against the eventual Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues.

After the Stars got off to a horrendous 1-7-1 start this season, they won seven of eight and have also recently had a seven-game winning streak. They are now 17-11-3, and in one of the Western Conference's top wildcard spot.

The league has been rocked by allegations over the past month, some of them dating back years. Calgary coach Bill Peters resigned last month following accusations by former NHL player Akim Aliu that Peters previously directed racist slurs toward him while the two were in the minors a decade ago. Peters was also accused of physical abuse while coaching the Carolina Hurricanes. □

Reed

Continued from Page 18

Reed played in a foursome with Woods, Justin Thomas and Patrick Cantlay. As he prepared to tee off, a fan in the bleachers said, "Now on the tee, The Excavator." Reed turned toward the fan and tipped his cap, then drilled his iron down the fairway.

Eleven of the 15 players and captains who were available for interviews Tuesday were asked about Reed. That included Reed, and one of the questions directed to him was, "You didn't cheat?"

"No, of course not," Reed replied.

He stood patiently before the largest group of media, answering every question about what happened, whether it bothers him to hear the word "cheat" bandied about or if he even cares what people think of him.

Reed just wants to get on with the Presidents Cup, and his teammates felt the same way.

"That's something that's great about Patrick is he's been a great team player and he's always wanted to win points for the team," Justin Thomas said. "So I think the only way it could become a distraction is what the headlines are and how much we read

into it. We're not here to read articles and get into this or that.

We are here to try to win points for the U.S. team in the Presidents Cup. ... It's in the past. And I understand it's going to be something that continues to get brought up, but none of us worry about it."

That didn't stop Thomas.

He was in the bunker on one hole, stood up to the shot and purposely took two practice swings that swiped away sand, then stood there laughing before dropping the ball elsewhere.

"It's all in good fun," Thomas said. "We needle each other all the time but it's never anything personal."

Still to be determined is whether it becomes personal to anyone else, inside or outside the ropes.

Marc Leishman was outspoken last week after seeing the Reed violation on television from the Australian Open. Asked about it again Tuesday, he said, "I only saw what everyone else saw. I guess we've all made up our own minds about it."

"I think we're just going to let that one go and try and beat him on the course," Leishman said. "I think we've said enough, or I've said enough about it. I don't need to add any fuel



USA's Patrick Reed hits out of a bunker during a practice session ahead of the President's Cup Golf tournament in Melbourne, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019.

Associated Press

to the fire. ... We know we have to play well to beat the Americans, and that's what we're preparing for."

This is a big year for the International team, led by Ernie Els. It has only one victory in the 25 years since the Presidents Cup was created to give players from outside Europe matches styled after the Ryder Cup. That was in 1998 at Royal Melbourne, the only other time the matches were held in December.

The underdog label, even for a home game, has never fit so well. The Interna-

tional team has seven rookies, with Adam Scott the highest-ranked player at No. 18. The average world ranking of the American team is 12.3.

"This week, this is probably the best chance we will have with this golf course, this crowd, and I think the way our guys are playing," Louis Oosthuizen said. "It's no fun going out and everyone is saying, 'They're just going to run over them again.'"

Woods is required to play at least once before the 12 singles matches Sun-

day. He paired himself with Thomas for the opening round of the Bahamas, and it appears likely they will be partners, particularly with Cantlay and Reed having played together in the team event in New Orleans the last few years.

Or maybe he will play again with Reed, after having gone 0-2 at the Ryder Cup last year.

Either way, Woods is sure to draw a crowd.

"It doesn't matter where you go in the world, I think people are going to root for him," Thomas said. □

Giants seek pitching, but few signs Bumgarner returning

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Francisco Giants would sure like to add a pitcher at this week's winter meetings.

It just might not be Madison Bumgarner.

San Francisco president of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi plans to meet with agents for the free agent left-hander, but there are few signs the Giants are ready to commit big money to him for the long haul.

"We're in contact with his representatives and expect to meet with them

here," Zaidi said Monday. "We are in touch with them. We will meet with them in person at some point here." Bumgarner was perhaps the biggest reason San Francisco won a third World Series over five years in 2014 and earned MVP honors from the Fall Classic. He hasn't been quite so dominant since. The 30-year-old may seek a deal similar to Zack Wheeler, who finalized a \$118 million, five-year deal with the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday.

"I would expect us to add at least one starting pitcher here and by here I don't

mean necessarily in San Diego, but there's a good chance we do that," Zaidi said. "We're having multiple conversations on that front. Pitching is a big priority here for us as it is for a lot of teams. It has been a major focus for us leading up to this and I expect us to be busy this week."

When the season ended, Bumgarner had prepared for the fact his tenure in San Francisco could be over. The Giants are looking to move forward with a younger roster and smaller payroll while trying to build back into a consistent contender.



In this Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019, file photo, San Francisco Giants' Madison Bumgarner waves toward fans before pinch hitting against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the fifth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Many figured Bumgarner would be gone by the All-Star break, but Zaidi opted not to trade him. Bumgarner called the constant speculation "just noise." The Giants exercised his

\$12 million contract option for 2019, the final year in a \$35.56 million, six-year deal he signed in April 2012 that included \$12 million club options for both 2018 and '19. □



By Carlos M Viana, OMD, CCN

The Holidays are upon us and for many of us that means parties with lots of alcohol. Drinking alcohol in moderation can be fun and sociable, but, is alcohol healthy?

A Danish study found that "Wine drinkers had significantly lower mortality from both coronary heart disease and cancer than did non-wine drinkers." Beer and other alcohol drinkers enjoyed a smaller benefit. This is good news for some; drinking with the doctor's permission! But wait; if you are not a drinker or suffer from liver disease, gastritis, or high blood pressure, it's not a good idea to start drinking alcohol for the health benefits. However, if you enjoy an occasional drink and are otherwise healthy, go back and read the first paragraph. Drinking "in moderation" is the key. The benefits are only effective when keeping to the recommended levels. To work the right way, alcohol intake should be spread over the whole week and binge sessions, like at a party should be avoided. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), moderate is defined as 2 drinks a day if you're a male 65 and younger, or 1 drink a day if you're a female or a male 66 and older. 1 drink means 12 oz of beer, 4 oz of wine, 1.5 oz of 80-proof hard liquor, or 1 oz of 100-proof liquor.

Unfortunately, for many having a good time means doing everything to excess which includes overindulgence in alcohol consumption and the ensuing effect of a hangover. A hangover is the result of a

combination of alcohol toxicity, dehydration, and Vitamin A, B and C depletion all caused by alcohol metabolism on your system. The symptoms are usually a dry mouth, nausea, fatigue; dizziness and headache.

Over the years there have been many folk remedies for hangovers. Some of these "cures" come with the toast "The hair of the dog that bit me"! The homeopathic principle of "like cures like" advice given literally in ancient times, "If a dog bites you, put a hair of the dog into the wound" this was distorted to imply that drinking more alcohol would help your hangover.

Apart from the obvious effects, during a hangover you are suffering the effects of a mild overdose of a depressant drug, your nerves are reacting and you have also flushed vitamins and nutrients from your system causing a shock that your body is struggling to fix. This is why hangover symptoms often include disorientation and "the jitters".

Alcohol enters cells and is broken down into a toxin. Your liver converts this toxin into ammonia and acetic acid, which is non-toxic and can be used by your body for energy. By the way, the other name for acetic acid is vinegar! In a hangover ammonia is metabolized in the brain which has only a limited capacity to remove the excess ammonia coming in. For those of you really partying to overload who include cocaine the news gets worse. Alcohol and cocaine form a product in your body called cocaethylene. Abusers know that higher alcohol concentrations lead to higher blood cocaine levels. However, high levels of alcohol slow down cocaine metabolism. This slow down may explain why users feel an enhanced euphoria when using the drugs in combination. Regrettably, the risk a sudden death from a heart attack is greatly increased.

So what is a partygoer to do? The best advice is to drink alcohol IN MODERATION avoiding binge drinking, and take red wine in preference to other alcoholic drinks. It's not necessary to have an alcoholic beverage in hand during an entire party. We enjoy sparkling water with a lime between glasses of red wine when socializing. Always eat something either before or while you are drinking. If you have drunk large quantities of alcohol, drink plenty of water afterwards. This will counteract dehydration. Rather than drink coffee the morning after a drinking session, a breakfast consisting of complex carbohydrates, a whole grain cereal right for your metabolic type, a glass of fresh fruit juice and a cup of green tea should bring your blood sugar level up to an acceptable level and help to rehydrate your body.

What not to do! Do not drink alcohol to try to neutralize your hangover. Bloody Mary's only make you progressively more useless as you drink more of them and slow down the healing process of your body. Do not waste your time with aspirin that will destroy your liver if combined with alcohol. Aspirin can cause sudden death at any time. So prevalent is death by aspirin that in the US that many aspirin induced deaths are listed on "cause" as "natural". Alcohol damages the liver; and aspirin damages the liver; but if you mix the two, the damage is much worse.

The most important natural supplement for a hangover is mineral water that helps rehydrate your body. Natural supplements that help neutralize alcohol byproducts and protect cells against the damaging effects of alcohol include vitamin C, B Complex, folic Acid, the amino acids SAME and glutathione, vitamin E, and selenium. We like to take extra vitamin C & B complex with a liter/qt of water before an evening of festivities. If more help is needed, we provide colon-hydro therapy in our clinic which can help flush out toxins and re-hydrate the body quickly. Get The Point! The Holidays should be spent reconnecting with family and friends in a festive exchange. In ancient times, putting "the hair of the dog that bit you into the wound" did not help prevent infection. Nothing is said about the dog biting you twice as you try to get some of its hair; which is what will happen if you try to cure your hangover with more alcohol. If the festivities have come back to bite you, or you are just looking for healthy ways to celebrate, we are open throughout the season to help you. Salud, Santé, Cheers, To Your Health!

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! *Gift Certificates & Health Products Available * Dr. Viana's Award winning BOOK: *Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine* – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook Holiday Special at www.amazon.com, check for Events at: facebook.com/vianahealingcenter

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Europe's new central bank chief faces slow growth, dissent

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— Mario Draghi took over as head of the European Central Bank eight years ago amid market speculation that the euro currency union might break up. Christine Lagarde succeeds him with more breathing room - but facing serious challenges from a weak economy, policy differences among her own officials, and questions about how much more central banks can do to help.

Analysts do not expect Lagarde to announce any changes in the bank's interest rates and bond-purchase stimulus program when she holds her first rate-setting meeting and news conference on Thursday.

The bank enacted a stimulus package in September to nudge the economy along in the face of headwinds like the U.S.-China trade conflict and Britain's



New President of European Central Bank Christine Lagarde arrives to a Finance Ministers Eurogroup meeting at the European Council headquarters in Brussels, Friday, Nov. 8, 2019.

Associated Press

departure from the European Union.

It's the first chance to hear how Lagarde communicates with markets and the public, a chief task for the head of an institution that

affects the lives of 342 million people in the 19 countries that use the euro. That is not an easy task; the bank's policy to keep one of its key interest rates below zero has come under

criticism from Germany news media as penalizing savers, while any imprecise remark from Lagarde can set off big market movements.

Lagarde may "err on the

side of caution and continuity" at first, said Frederik Ducrozet, senior European economist at Pictet Wealth Management. That would be a contrast to Draghi's first meeting in 2011 when the bank cut interest rates during a debt crisis that threatened to break up the currency union.

Lagarde's challenges include managing dissent within the ECB over stimulus policy after a minority of governing council members openly criticized the stimulus package that was decided at Draghi's next-to-last meeting.

That job may be supported by Lagarde's extensive political experience from serving as head of the International Monetary Fund and before that as French finance minister.

She has said the bank will pursue a review of how it defines its inflation goal and also look at whether the bank's measures could support efforts to fight climate change. □

Stocks edge higher on Wall Street ahead of tariff deadline

By DAMIAN J. TROISE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks edged higher on Wall Street in midday trading Tuesday as investors considered reports that the U.S. will delay a new round of tariffs on Chinese goods as the nations continue negotiating a trade deal.

The proposed tariffs scheduled to begin on Sunday threaten to hit U.S. consumers particularly hard by raising the prices of popular products including cell-phones and laptops. Both nations have been working toward a "phase 1" deal that Wall Street hopes can lead to an eventual long-term resolution.

Technology companies were the biggest gainers. Micron rose 1.9% and Nvidia climbed 1.5%. The sector is particularly sensitive to trade as many of the companies rely on China for sales and supply chains.

Energy and health care stocks also rose.

Several communications companies slipped. Comcast fell 2% and Netflix fell 1.3%.

KEEPING SCORE: The S&P 500 index rose less than 0.1% as of 11:45 a.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 6 points to 27,852. The Nasdaq rose 0.2%. The Russell 2000 index of smaller company stocks rose 0.2%. European markets fell and Asian markets were mixed.

TRADE WOES: It's been a volatile month so far for trade relations as the U.S. and China stay mostly quiet on their latest push for a deal. China helped ease some of the tension last week when it made the conciliatory gesture of planning to waive tariffs on American soybeans and pork, which have been hurting American farmers. Wall Street was rattled early last week when President Donald Trump said that a deal could possibly wait until after the 2020 elections. The longstanding



In this Dec. 5, 2019, file photo specialist Christopher Riggs, left, works with traders Fred DeMarco, center and Philip Powers on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

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trade war has been hanging over U.S. businesses and prompting them to hold back on spending and other investments. It also continues to threaten economic growth, which is being propped up by consumer spending and a strong jobs market. □

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | 8 | | | | 9 | | | | 8 |
| | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 8 | | 5 | | | |
| 1 | | 9 | | | | | 5 | | | |
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Difficulty Level ★★

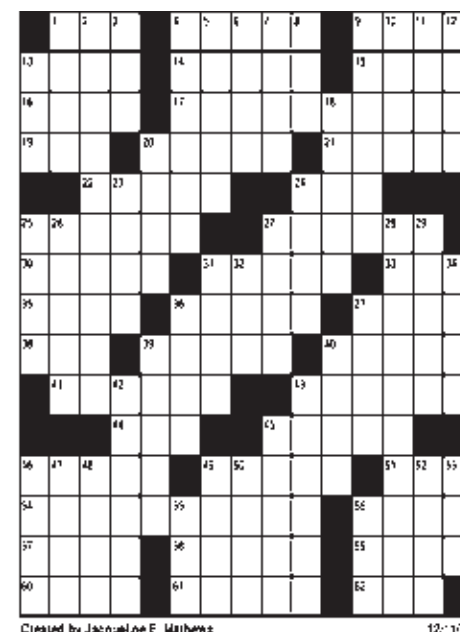
12-11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 |

- ACROSS
- 1 To : breath
 - 2 Tint
 - 3 Think the word of
 - 4 Valtellina's range
 - 5 Lung disease
 - 6 Ride a Schynr
 - 7 Cowboy's shoe
 - 8 Fact and
 - 9 Can't
 - 10 Calf's maker
 - 11 Be Seeing You, B'te
 - 12 Holiday song
 - 13 Lock horns
 - 14 Refresh
 - 15 Placem's nation
 - 16 Oxygen or argon
 - 17 Actor Al
 - 18 WWII president
 - 19 John Quincy
 - 20 Treble
 - 21 Musical symphony
 - 22 Scenic promise
 - 23 Saloons
 - 24 Group of ships
 - 25 Phi Kappa
 - 26 Rise, Dan's
 - 27 Confront
 - 28 Live a school
 - 29 Uniform skirt
 - 30 Exposed
 - 31 Voracity
 - 32 Tobe or Kim
 - 33 Candle material
 - 34 Passover bread
 - 35 The Beverly
 - 36 H's res. star
 - 37 Add booze to the punch
 - 38 Take : decar.
 - 39 G's basket
 - 40 Wrapping
 - 41 One scene play
 - 42 Pet's from above
 - 43 Fairness
 - 44 Buffalo group
 - 45 Time- : brief
 - 46 game breaks
 - 47 Which Way
 - 48 Out Loose
 - 49 Begley & his dad



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

12-11/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| TAME | BALES | EGGS |
| REEL | I HAVE | NOAH |
| ARTS | DECAPITATE | |
| POI | DDAY | RILED |
| CURED | WAR | |
| PAUPER | METERS | |
| ALLOW | SHALE | EAT |
| NOON | SPELL | DELI |
| GNU | LEASE | BOXER |
| ESCORT | PLEASE | |
| LOB | CHASM | |
| SHOES | BLOB | ITS |
| LEPRECHAUN | SNAP | |
| OREG | OUNCE | HERA |
| TONY | DESKS | ESP.Y |

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US wildlife officials agree to Lower 48 grizzly bear review

By **MATTHEW BROWN**

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials will review whether grizzly bears have enough protections across the Lower 48 states after advocates sued the government in a bid to restore the fearsome animals to more areas, according to court documents filed Monday. The review must be completed by March 31, 2021, under a settlement approved by U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen. Grizzly bears are protected as a threatened species outside Alaska. An estimated 1,900 bears live in portions of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Washington state.

Tens of thousands of grizzlies once roamed across much of western North America before hunting and trapping killed most of them off by the early 1900s. Federal wildlife officials said in 2011 that additional areas should be considered for grizzly bear recovery, but that work has never been completed. The Center for Biological Diversity said in a June lawsuit that officials should consider restoring grizzlies to areas of California, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Oregon.

The agreement to review the grizzly bear's status does not fully resolve the June lawsuit, which also seeks an update to the government's recovery plan for grizzlies.

Environmentalists successfully sued last year to block grizzly hunts planned in Wyoming and Idaho. The hunts were scheduled after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined about 700 grizzlies in and around Yellowstone National Park no longer needed federal protection.

Christensen disagreed and ordered protections restored. □

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In Sweden's Arctic, ice atop snow leaves reindeer starving

By DAVID KEYTON

Associated Press

KIRUNA, Sweden (AP) —

Thick reindeer fur boots and a fur hat covering most of his face shielded Niila Inga from freezing winds as he raced his snowmobile up to a mountain top overlooking his reindeer in the Swedish arctic.

His community herds about 8,000 reindeer year-round, moving them between traditional grazing grounds in the high mountains bordering Norway in the summer and the forests farther east in the winter, just as his forebears in the Sami indigenous community have for generations.

But Inga is troubled: His reindeer are hungry, and he can do little about it. Climate change is altering weather patterns here and affecting the herd's food supply.

"If we don't find better areas for them where they can graze and find food, then the reindeers will starve to death," he said. Already pressured by the mining and forestry industry, and other development that encroach on grazing land, Sami herding communities fear climate change could mean the end of their traditional lifestyle.

Slipping his hand from a massive reindeer skin mitten, Inga illustrated the problem, plunging his hand into the crusted snow and pulling out a hard piece of ice close to the soil.

Unusually early snowfall in autumn was followed by rain that froze, trapping food under a thick layer of ice. Unable to eat, the hungry animals have scattered from their traditional migration routes in search of new grazing grounds.

Half the herd carried on



In this Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019 photo, reindeer in a corral at Lappeasuando near Kiruna await to be released onto the winter pastures.

Associated Press

east as planned, while the rest retreated to the mountains where predators abound, and the risk of avalanches is great.

Elder Sami herders recall that they once had bad winters every decade or so, but Inga said that "extreme and strange weather are getting more and more normal, it happens several times a year."

The arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the globe. Measurements by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute show the country has warmed 1.64 degrees Celsius (2.95-degree Fahrenheit) compared with pre-industrial times. In Sweden's alpine region, this increase is even greater, with average winter temperatures between 1991 and 2017 up more than 3 degrees Celsius (5.4-degree Fahrenheit) compared with the 1961-1990 average.

Snowfall is common in these areas, but as temperatures increase, occasional rainfall occurs — and 'rain-on-snow' events are having devastating effects. The food is still there, but the reindeer can't reach it. The animals grow weaker and females sometimes abort their calves while the survivors struggle to make it through the winter.

"We have winter here for eight months a year and when it starts in October with bad grazing conditions it won't get any better," Inga said.

That is devastating to Sami herders, a once-nomadic people scattered across a region that spans the far north of Sweden, Norway, Finland and the northwestern corner of Russia. Until the 1960s, this indigenous minority were discouraged from reindeer herding and their language and culture were suppressed. Today, of the 70,000 Sami, only about 10% herd reindeer, making a limited income from meat, hides and antlers crafted into knife handles.

"Everyone wants to take the reindeers' area where they find food. But with climate change, we need more flexibility to move around," said Sanna Vannar, a young herder from

a community living in the mountains surrounding Jokkmokk, an important Sami town just north of the Arctic Circle. "Here you can't find food, but maybe you can find food there, but there they want to clear-cut the forest and that's the problem." The 24-year-old is the president of the Swedish Sami Youth organization and, together with eight other families elsewhere in the world, they launched a legal action in 2018 to force the European Union to set more ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Earlier this year, the European General Court rejected their case on procedural grounds, but the plaintiffs have appealed. "We've said we don't want money because we can't buy better weather with money," Vannar said. "We've said we need that the EU take action and they need to do it now."

The EU's new executive Commission is expected to present a 'European Green Deal' on Wednesday, to coincide with a U.N. climate conference in Madrid.

Herders have also started working with Stockholm University, hoping to advance research that will

broaden understanding about changing weather patterns.

As part of this rare collaboration between Sami and science, weather stations deep in the forests of the Laevas community are recording air and ground temperature, rainfall, wind speed and snowfall density. Sami ancestral knowledge of the land and the climate complements analysis of data gathered, offering a more detailed understanding of weather events.

"With this data we can connect my traditional knowledge and I see what the effects of it are," says Inga who has been working on the project since 2013 and has co-authored published scientific papers with Ninis Rosqvist, a professor of Natural Geography at Stockholm University.

Rosqvist directs a field station operating since the 1940s in the Swedish alpine region measuring glaciers and changes in snow and ice. But through the collaboration with Inga, she realized that less "exciting" areas in the forests may be most crucial to understanding the impacts of changing climate.

"As a scientist I can measure that something is happening, but I don't know the impact of it on, in this case, the whole ecosystem. And that's why you need their knowledge," she said.

Rosqvist hopes this research can help Sami communities argue their case with decision-makers legislating land use rights. Back in the forest, Inga is releasing onto the winter pastures a group of reindeer that had been separated from the herd when the animals scattered earlier in autumn.

Several other herders have spent more than a week high in the mountains searching for the other half of the herd and trying to bring the animals down, to no avail.

"As long as they are forced to stay there, they'll get into worse and worse condition," he warned. □

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Kosovo, Albania to boycott Nobel Literature award ceremony

By FLORENT BAJRAMI

LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo (AP) —

Kosovo and Albania say they will boycott the Nobel Literature Prize ceremony Tuesday to protest the award being given to Austrian writer Peter Handke who both countries link to the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Handke was an opponent of NATO's airstrikes against Serbia in the Kosovo War of the late 1990s and spoke in 2006 at the funeral of autocratic Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Kosovo was part of Serbia until 1999 when NATO intervened to stop Milosevic.

Kosovo's outgoing foreign minister, Behgjet Pacolli has instructed the ambassador in Sweden "to boycott the ceremony," adding that "a writer who supported Milosevic and his genocide in Bosnia and Kosovo does not deserve the Nobel Prize."

In solidarity with Kosovo Albanians, Albania's ambassador to Sweden won't attend Tuesday's Nobel ceremony, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The country is boycotting the ceremony because of Handke's support for "Slobodan Milosevic, the 'butcher of the Balkans,' who led so many mass atrocities during the bloody collapse of the former Yugoslavia."

Albanian acting foreign minister, Gent Cakaj, who was born in Kosovo, tweeted that the "justification of war atrocities during the Yugoslavia break-up must not be rewarded."

For Milazim Krasniqi, a resident of Hoce e Vogel, a small village 80 kilometres (50 miles) southwest of the capital Pristina, he can't believe "that Milosevic's friend and supporter gets the prize in the 21st century."

There were more than 40 people killed in the village during the war.

More than 10,000 were killed or died in total in the 1998-99 war.

A 78-day NATO air campaign ended Serb rule in

Kosovo, and the United Nations governed the province until 2008 when Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, which Belgrade hasn't recognized yet.

"It is intolerable, unacceptable to promote notorious writers with such a prize, writers who make reasoning of the crimes in the region," said Shkelzen Maliqi, a Pristina-based analyst.

The frontpage of Koha Ditore daily newspaper showed Milosevic applauding Handke with the Nobel Prize.

That was, nevertheless, not the opinion of the ethnic Serb minority in Kosovo.

"Whatever he wrote about the Serbs, he wrote it good and frightfully," said Dimitrie Dimitric, an ethnic Serb



2019 Nobel Prize laureate in literature Peter Handke speaks at a press conference at the Swedish Academy in Stockholm, Sweden, Monday Dec. 6, 2019.

Associated Press

in Hoce e Madhe, close to Hoce e Vogel. "Those who gave it to him are not senseless."

Posters were plastered around Hoce e Madhe that said "Congratulations to our Nobel!"

Tensions between Kosovo and Serbia have been worsening in recent times. The European Union-facilitated dialogue that started in 2011 has been stalled since last year after Kosovo set a 100% import duty on all Serbian and Bosnian goods, despite international calls to lift or suspend the measure.

Kosovo insists on full recognition of its statehood as the end result of the talks, something which for now isn't acceptable to Serbia. □

\$10 Match Play

DOUBLE YOUR WIN | Redeem only at Blackjack Tables.

Please note: Limit one per person, per day. Must be 18 years or older. Coupon is valid for tourist and locals and is not redeemable for cash. Not valid with any other promotion. Management reserves the right to change promotion without notice.

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\$20 Extra Bonus

Valid once per night

Poker Room

Please note: Buy in for \$200 or more & receive extra \$20 bonus, one hour minimum play.

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Located at Riu Antillas as formerly The Westin Resort.

'The Good Liar' pairs Mirren and McKellen

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

For a blind date, we could hardly do better than Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen.

They are brought swiftly together by a computer dating service in the opening minutes of "The Good Liar." Both click "widowed." When they cautiously sit down in a quiet London restaurant, and Mirren begins sipping a martini, it's

hard not think they're a match made in heaven. And yet "The Good Liar," a modest middlebrow thriller, never lives up to the sheer pleasure of seeing its two leads together, for the first time as co-stars. Directed by Bill Condon ("Kinsey," "Beauty and the Beast," "Dreamgirls") and adapted from Nicholas Searle's 2016 novel, "The Good Liar" has the polish that you would expect from all



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ian McKellen, left, and Helen Mirren in a scene from "The Good Liar."

Associated Press

[illegible]

involved, but little of the sparkle.

Immediately, there's a play between truth and deceit. When Roy Courtney (McKellen) is filling out his dating profile, he selects "non-smoker" while a cigarette smolders nearby. Right after their meeting, Roy once out of eyeshot from Mirren's Betty McLeish quickly sheds his kindly old gentleman persona and skips into a nightclub to hash out a scheme with his co-conspirators over

champagne.

What unfolds goes considerably further than the small exaggerations and distortions commonly found on Tinder pages. "The Good Liar" delves into deeper falsehoods of identity and history, teasing out a twisty narrative that winds its way back to World War II.

It aspires to the psychological intrigue of Patricia Highsmith or John Le Carre without ever summoning such a thick air of mystery

and danger.

Roy is a conman. He's got a few hustles going on, but his focus is drawn increasingly to getting close to Betty and robbing her of her small fortune, one amassed from a career as a history professor at Oxford. She lives outside London, and Roy's quick insertion into her life (he feigns a bad limp to score a bed in her guest room) raises the suspicions of Betty's grandson, Steven (Russell Tovey). □

R Kelly charged with paying bribe before marriage to Aaliyah

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal prosecutors are accusing singer R. Kelly of scheming with others to pay for a fake ID for an unnamed female a day before he married R&B singer Aaliyah, then 15 years old, in a secret ceremony in 1994. The revised indictment filed Thursday in New York, accuses Kelly of paying a bribe in exchange for a "fraudulent identification document" for someone identified only as "Jane Doe" on Aug. 30, 1994.

A day later, Kelly, then 27, married Aaliyah in a secret ceremony arranged by Kelly at a hotel in Chi-



This combination photo shows singer R. Kelly after the first day of jury selection in his child pornography trial at the Cook County Criminal Courthouse in Chicago on May 9, 2008, left, the late R&B singer and actress Aaliyah during a photo shoot in New York on May 9, 2001.

Associated Press

cago.

The marriage was annulled months later because of

her age. Aaliyah died in a plane crash in 2001 at age 22. □

National Spelling Bee will have fewer wild cards next year

By BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

The Scripps National Spelling Bee will have fewer participants next year. Whether it will have fewer champions remains to be seen.

Six months after the bee ended in an unprecedented eight-way tie because organizers ran out of words that were difficult enough to trip up the best spellers, Scripps on Tuesday announced the first in a series of reforms to the competition. While bee organizers aren't saying how they'll come up with a more challenging word list, the bee is reducing the number of wild-card entrants, which ought to streamline an event that was becoming unwieldy.

The bee will have roughly 140 wild-card entrants, down from nearly 300 this year. That means the competition would top out at about 400 spellers. This year, there were 562 kids in the bee, which is open to students through the eighth grade.

And unlike in previous years, wild cards will be available only to seventh- and eighth-graders.

There were dozens of first-timers and younger spellers among this year's wild



In this Thursday, May 31, 2018, file photo, Karthik Nemmani, from McKinney, Texas, smiles as he wins the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md.

cards, and current and former spellers said they were concerned the program had strayed from its intended purpose and was letting in nearly anyone able to pay the \$1,500 entry fee, plus travel, lodging and expenses.

Spellers who qualify via the traditional route, by winning a regional bee, have their trip to nationals paid for by sponsors.

There were 17 wild cards age 9 or younger this year,

and none survived to join the 50 spellers who made the finals. The preliminary rounds featured wild-card spellers who were clearly overwhelmed by such words as "tendon," "vestibule," "allocation" and "gyro."

Fourteen-year-old Simone Kaplan of Davie, Florida, who just missed being part of the octet of champions in this year's bee, said she noticed the struggles of some younger wild-card

spellers.

"The change gives the students in sixth grade and below who don't win their district bees more chances to hone their skills for next year," said the eighth-grader, who is hoping to return for her fourth bee.

"I think that making the bee smaller is also going to make it more competitive, so yes, I think it is a good thing."

Paige Kimble, the bee's executive director, told The

Associated Press ahead of the announcement that older kids ought to be the focus of the wild-card program because they are running out of chances to make the bee.

She said Scripps will take into account applicants' performances in past bees and the difficulty of their regions.

Scripps also announced a financial aid package for spellers who apply through the wild-card program, known as "RSVBee." The bee will cover the entry fees and expenses of up to 18 wild-card spellers who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches, a common measure of poverty.

"We have always been sensitive to the financial need aspect of RSVBee," Kimble said. "We look forward to helping spellers and their families who are in need make it to the national stage."

The wild-card program began with the 2018 bee in a bid to give opportunities to kids who live in highly competitive regions or in areas without sponsored bees, and it paid off immediately when Karthik Nemmani, a wild card from the Dallas area, won the bee. □

Associated Press

Marie Fredriksson of Swedish pop duo Roxette dies at 61

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Marie Fredriksson, the female half of the Swedish pop duo Roxette, has died at age 61, her management agency said Tuesday.

Fredriksson formed Roxette with Per Gessle in 1986. The two released their first album the same year and went on to achieve international success in the late 1980s and 1990s with hits including "The Look" and "It Must Have Been Love."

The Dimberg Jernberg agency said Fredriksson died Monday "of the consequences of a long illness."

It "is with great sorrow that we must inform you that one of greatest and most-loved artists is gone," the

firm said.

On his Facebook profile, Gessle wrote: "You were an outstanding musician, a master of the voice, an amazing performer."

"I'm proud, honored and happy to have been able to share so much of your time, talent, warmth, generosity and your sense of humour," he wrote in English, adding "Things will never be the same."

Fredriksson was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2002. She underwent aggressive treatment that took its toll but ultimately was successful, her management agency said.

However, she was left blind in one eye, with limited hearing and mobility, and was unable to read or write. She was also un-

able to speak for a considerable period of time after her treatment. Over the years she was able to make a gradual return to the world stage

Fredriksson was born in southern Sweden on May 30, 1958, and had her artistic breakthrough in 1984 in Sweden. Two years later, she formed the duo Roxette with Gessle, and in 1989, the pair had their international breakthrough with "The Look."

They achieved international success with their albums "Look Sharp!" in 1988 and "Joyride" in 1991, and had six top two hits on the Billboard Hot 100. The pair sold 80 million records worldwide and embarked on world tours.

They were Sweden's best-



In this file photo dated July 18, 2015, Marie Fredriksson, singer of the pop duo Roxette.

Associated Press

known band since ABBA in the 1970s and 1980s, and in 2003, Sweden's Carl Gustaf XVI awarded the duo a royal award. Fredriksson made her first public appearance after

her brain tumor operation to receive the honor with Gessle.

Fredriksson is survived by her husband, Mikael Bolyos, and their two children, Josefin and Oscar. □

Why are moths attracted to light?

Carlos Linares Boise
Associated Press

Why are moths attracted to light? – Gabriel H., age 7, Providence, RI " Have you ever gone for a walk at night and looked up at the lights along the street? If you paid attention, you probably saw lots of little creatures flying around those lights. Why do moths, one of many kinds of insects, fly toward light? Some circle around, others zigzag, but they all seem to somehow be drawn to lights.

Insects that fly at night are attracted to artificial light all around the world. We are scientists who are curious about the effects of light pollution on moths and other insects, and that is what we in-



This undated photo provided by the Oregon Zoo shows a *Opodiphthera eucalypti* moth in its habitat on Mount Hebo in Oregon.

Associated Press

toward lights as if they are trying to keep the "Moon" off to the same side.

Another idea is that lights trick moths into seeing visual illusions of darker areas near the lights' edges, called Mach bands, and moths fly toward these dark hiding places.

Yet another idea supposes that lights at night blind moths by swamping the light receptors in their eyes and disorienting them.

Could lights be partially to blame for fewer insects?

As scientists, we think that understanding how lights attract moths can help us understand why insects are declining. It may be that lights make insects easy prey by concentrating them in one place and interfering with their abilities to avoid bats. Or, when the Sun rises, insects may find themselves trapped on unnatural surfaces, where their camouflage doesn't work: Now they are easy prey for birds and lizards.

Another problem could be that trapped insects, lured away from their normal habitat, are forced to lay their eggs far from the plants their young need to eat. And many insects likely die from exhaustion while circling lights.

If you would like to help insects, you can use yellow or red light bulbs on the outside of your house. These lights attract fewer insects. Motion sensor lights are helpful, too, because they turn on only when needed. As we explore how light pollution is affecting insects, our research can inform local and national governments on how to manage light to protect the natural world. □

investigate in our work. One of us grew up in Mexico. And one of us grew up in Alaska. When we were kids, we both remember insects flying and crashing against the street lights in front of our houses in different parts of the world. But now, it seems there are fewer and fewer insects flying around those same lights.

Why are moths and other insects important?

During the last several decades, the number of insects in forests, fields and cities seems to be declining. Insects are an important source of food for almost all other animals. They also do very important jobs like pollinating flowers or breaking down leaves and other organic matter to be used again by nature.

For years, scientists have tried to explain why moths and other insects are attracted to lights, but scientists are not entirely sure why!

We are currently designing experiments to determine which of several explanations might be true. One idea is that some insects use the Moon or bright stars as direction-finding aids. To moths, streetlights might look like the Moon, which could mislead them. Some insects spiral

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